

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
MINERALS MANAGEMENT SERVICE
GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

NTL No. 2005-G23

Effective Date: November 8, 2005

Issue Date: November 8, 2005

Expiration Date: June 30, 2006

**NOTICE TO LESSEES AND OPERATORS OF FEDERAL OIL, GAS, AND SULPHUR
LEASES AND PIPELINE RIGHT-OF-WAY HOLDERS IN THE OUTER
CONTINENTAL SHELF, GULF OF MEXICO OCS REGION**

Amended - Gulf of Mexico Regional Office Operations

This Notice to Lessees and Operators (NTL) is issued pursuant to 30 CFR 250.103. It supersedes NTL No. 2005-G18, effective October 7, 2005. It provides a description and information regarding the status of the Minerals Management Service (MMS) Gulf of Mexico OCS Region (GOMR) subsequent to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. Many telephone numbers have been changed. All telephone numbers of offices and personnel that were applicable before the hurricanes are applicable now or will be in the near future. This NTL is designed to assist you and provide guidance on the conduct of operations with the MMS GOMR.

1. The MMS GOMR has resumed all of its operations. The office building at 1201 Elmwood Blvd. in New Orleans has reopened after two months of repairs. It will be business as usual with the exception of several sections and the Regional Director's offices. ***The following offices have remained in Houston; however, their pre-hurricane New Orleans telephone phone numbers will apply,*** or you may use the following:

Office of the Regional Supervisor for Field Operations	(281) 873-1848
Office of Structural and Technical Support	(281) 873-1811
Technical Assessment Operations Support Section	(281) 873-1841
Office of the Regional Supervisor for Production and Development	(281) 873- 1882
Development and Unitization Section	(281) 873- 1804

The physical and mailing address for these offices are

16855 Northchase Drive
Houston, TX 77060

P.O. Box 60389
Houston, TX 77205

2. The Surface Commingling and Production Measurement Section has moved to a temporary office at 19218 North 5th Street, Covington, LA 70433. However, continue to send all required filings to the normal New Orleans address at 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans, LA 70123-2394. If pre-hurricane telephone numbers do not work for this section, the following are each employee's direct telephone numbers:

Jacobs, Fred (Section Chief)	(504) 419-1450
Marsh, Paul (Production Verification Unit Supervisor)	(504) 419-1468
Bell, Kathy	(504) 419-1988
Foster, Jennie	(504) 419-1989
Joseph, Mike	(504) 419-1990
Lester, Debbie	(504) 419-1991
Torres, Frank	(504) 419-1992
Turton, Mary	(504) 419-1993
Yam, Frank	(504) 419-1994
Johnson, Kelly (Production Approval Unit Supervisor)	(504) 419-1460
Dufrene, Becky	(504) 419-1980
Faust, Kathy	(504) 419-1981
Guidry, John	(504) 419-1982
Guidry, Troy	(504) 419-1983
Johnson, Byron	(504) 419-1984
Kwong, John	(504) 419-1985
Mouton, Steve	(504) 419-1986
Newton, Bob	(504) 419-1987

3. The following MMS GOMR sections are temporarily located at 990 Corporate Drive, New Orleans, LA 70123. ***The telephone numbers for these sections are the same as they were prior to the hurricanes. Continue to send mail to 1201 Elmwood Park Blvd., New Orleans LA 70123-2394.***

Office of the Regional Supervisor for Field Operations
Plans Section
Pipeline Section

Office of the Regional Supervisor for Production and Development
Rate Control Section

4. All MMS GOMR District Offices are open.

5. ***As a reminder, submit all applications and filings in accordance with MMS regulations. Except for those applications and actions listed in Item No. 8 below, departures and/or waivers from requirements to file that were granted by previous hurricane NTL's are no longer in effect.***

6. Continue to send hurricane reports to the following contact numbers:

Evacuation Statistics	(281) 873-1962
Damage Reports	(281) 873-1856
Telefax (Evacuation Statistics and Damage Reports Only)	(281) 873-1880

7. The MMS Electronic Permitting and Reporting System (eWell) is operational. If you need further assistance or guidance on proper submittal procedures during this resumption of the eWell System, go to the MMS Homepage link at

<http://www.mms.gov/eWellStatus.htm> or contact one of the following MMS GOMR representatives:

Bob Lanza	(504) 736-2450
Steve Dessauer	(504) 736-2508
Dave Trocquet	(504) 736-2506

8. Platform Approvals – Office of Structural and Technical Support

As a reminder, major repairs of platform damage resulting from Hurricanes Katrina or Rita must be reviewed and approved by the MMS GOMR before they are performed.

The following list provides guidance on platform installations, modifications, and repairs that you can perform before you receive formal approval from the MMS GOMR.

Installing a new platform that:

- Has site-specific soil data
- Meets High Consequence Criteria, Level 1 (per Section 2 of API RP 2A, 21st edition)
- Has all connections with fatigue lives greater than 100 years

Making major modifications and repairs to an existing platform that:

- Has a deck height that meets the new design deck height requirements in Section 2 of API RP 2A, 21st edition
- Meets High Consequence Criteria, Level 1 (per Section 2 of API RP 2A, 21st edition)
- Has site-specific soil data
- Has no corrosion, as evidenced by a coating system grade of A
- Has no Hurricane Katrina or Hurricane Rita damage

Adding a well to an existing platform that:

- Was installed within the last 5 years
- Has a deck height that meets the new design deck height requirements in Section 2 of API RP 2A, 21st edition
- Has an original platform design that provided for the additional well

Converting a platform to a right-of-use and easement platform that:

- Was installed within the last 5 years
- Has a deck height that meets the new design deck height requirements in Section 2 of API RP 2A, 21st edition
- Is on an expired lease, and all wells have been permanently plugged

Removing a platform and performing site clearance where:

- The site is in a water depth less than 300 feet
- The platform will be completely removed at least 15 feet below the mudline
- If explosives will be used in the removal operation, you ensure that all charges are less than 50 pounds, use NOAA fisheries observers, and follow all standard helicopter flights and observer clearance for all detonations
- You verify site clearance by trawling the 1320-foot radius area

You may e-mail applications to structures@mms.gov or send hard copies sent to the Houston, Texas address listed above with a notification and schedule of the planned offshore work. The contact phone numbers for the Office of Structural and Technical Support are:

Telephone	(281) 873-1811
Telefax	(281) 873-1880

9. Rate Control Section

Submit the following forms before December 1, 2005, if they were due during the period August 29, 2005, through November 1, 2005, but not submitted because of Hurricanes Katrina or Rita.

- Well Potential Test Reports (Form MMS-126; 30 CFR 250.1102 and NTL No. 98-23)
- Sensitive Reservoir Information Reports (Form MMS-127; 30 CFR 250.1102 and NTL No. 98-23)
- Semi-annual Well Test Reports (Form MMS-128; 30 CFR 250.1102 and NTL No. 98-23)
- Bottom-hole Pressure Surveys (30 CFR 250.1104)

Direct Rate Control Section correspondence to: 1201 Elmwood Park Boulevard, New Orleans, LA 70123-2394. Employee telephones have been restored to their pre-hurricane numbers. For information regarding the following regulatory requirements, please contact the MMS GOMR representatives listed below or Ronald Bowser at (504) 736-2640.

- Approvals to produce within 500 feet of a unit or lease line (30 CFR 250.1101(b)) – Richie Baud at (504) 736-2480
- Flaring, venting, and liquid burning (30 CFR 250.1105 and NTL No. 2004-G08) – Richie Baud at (504) 736-2480
- Downhole commingling (30 CFR 250.1106) – Richie Baud at (504) 736-2480
- Requests to produce gas caps of sensitive reservoirs (30 CFR 250.1101(a) and NTL No. 98-23) – Holly Karrigan at (504) 736-2834
- Conservation Information Documents (NTL No. 2000-N05) – Holly Karrigan at (504) 736-2834

Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA) Statement

The collection of information referred to in this NTL provides clarification, description, or interpretation of requirements contained in 30 CFR part 250. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) approved the information collection requirements for 30 CFR part 250 and assigned OMB control numbers for its various subparts. This notice does not impose additional information collection requirements subject to the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995.

[original signed]
Chris C. Oynes
Regional Director